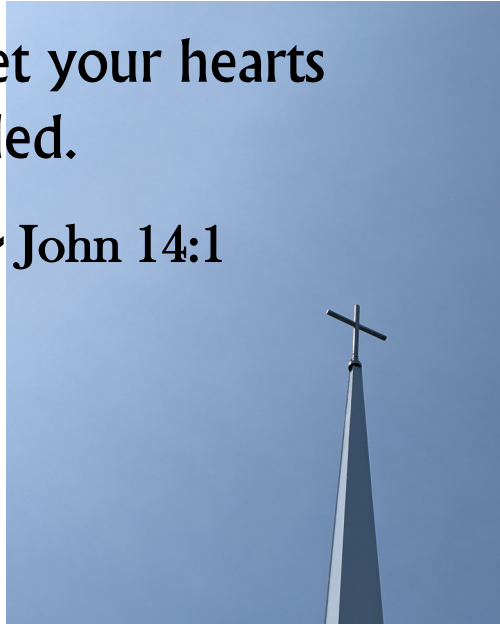


Do not let your hearts  
be troubled.

~ John 14:1



**Sunday, May 3, 2026**  
*Fifth Sunday of Easter*

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Pastor Sara Stall-Ryan  
P.O. Box 202, 183 William Street  
Portland, CT 06480  
860-342-2860  
[www.zionlutheranportland.org](http://www.zionlutheranportland.org)  
email: [zion.lutheran@snet.net](mailto:zion.lutheran@snet.net)

# HOLY COMMUNION

*Setting Four*

*Regular font: Worship Leader; **Bold font: Congregation***

*Prelude*

**WELCOME**

## GATHERING

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

### EASTER LITANY

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen, indeed, Alleluia!**

The grave is dark and never gives back.

**But God is stronger than all of death!**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen, indeed, Alleluia!**

In Christ, sorrow gives way to joy.

**The dead now rise to new life!**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen, indeed, Alleluia!**

**GATHERING HYMN** “O God of Love, O King of Peace”

**ELW 749**

### GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**KIRIE**

**pg. 147**

**THIS IS THE FEAST**

**pg. 149**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## WORD

*Please be seated*

### FIRST READING

**Acts 7:55-60**

<sup>55</sup> Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup> “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” <sup>57</sup> But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. <sup>58</sup> Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup> While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup> Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 31:1-5, 15-16 (*spoken responsively*)

<sup>1</sup> In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be | put to shame;

deliver me | in your righteousness.

<sup>2</sup> **Incline your | ear to me;**

**make haste to de- | liver me.**

<sup>3</sup> Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag | and my stronghold;

for the sake of your name, lead | me and guide me.

<sup>4</sup> **Take me out of the net that they have secretly | set for me,**  
**for you are my tow- | er of strength.**

<sup>5</sup> Into your hands I com- | mend my spirit,

for you have redeemed me, O LORD, | God of truth.

<sup>15</sup> **My times are | in your hand;  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those  
who | persecute me.**

<sup>16</sup> Let your face shine up- | on your servant;  
save me in your | steadfast love.”

*Please stand*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**pg. 151**

### **GOSPEL READING**

**John 14:1-14**

The holy gospel according to John the 14th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples: <sup>1</sup> “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to the place where I am going.” <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” <sup>8</sup> Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup> Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup> Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup> Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*Please be seated*

### SERMON

*Pastor Sara Stall-Ryan*

*One Minute of Silence is kept for reflection.*

*Please stand*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** “Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart”

**ELW 800**

### NICENE CREED

**pg. 104**

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

*A brief silence.*

God of glory, you have built your church on Christ the cornerstone. Inspire lay leaders, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim forgiveness and your steadfast love to all whom they encounter. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of majesty, you bring forth plants and animals, skies and seas, mountains and valleys. Protect all you have made from the ravages of pollution and climate disaster. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of mercy, you intend governments and social service agencies to be instruments of peace and justice. Guide political leaders and organizations to be agents of compassion, and raise up advocates for those who seek refuge and assistance. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of well-being, you soothe those in distress, console all who grieve, provide for any in need, and comfort those who are sick (especially). Instill caregivers with a sense of purpose to be your healing hands in this world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of community, you call us together as your people for mutual support and to witness to your love in the world. Make your presence known among those unable to attend worship today. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of eternal life, you have prepared dwelling places for your people, so that we are never separated from you. We give you thanks for the faithful departed who witnessed to your mighty acts in word and deed. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

**pg. 152**

**MEAL**

*Please be seated*

**OFFERING**

*Please Stand*

**OFFERTORY HYMN** “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”  
(vs. 4) **ELW 367**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Merciful God,  
accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.  
You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day  
when we will hunger and thirst no more.  
Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,  
that goodness and mercy may follow us  
and bless the world you love.  
In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING** **pg. 152**

*Please kneel or sit*

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER** **pg. 154**

It is indeed right...

**LORD'S PRAYER** **pg. 154**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

**DISTRIBUTION**

*Please be seated*

**LAMB OF GOD** **pg. 154**

*Please kneel or sit*

**COMMUNION HYMNS**

“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound” **ELW 779**

“O Christ, Our Hope” **ELW 604**

*Please stand*

**BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,  
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,  
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,  
+ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Holy One,  
through this meal you have made your home among us  
and are making all things new.  
Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,  
to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations.  
In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

# SENDING

## BENEDICTION

The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come,  
Sovereign, + Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection  
dawn, now and always.

**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

“Blessing and Honor”

**ELW 854**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

*Postlude:*

### **Prayer List**

<b>For Health:</b>	Bud J	Malynda A	<b>For Safety:</b>
Joyce G	Jessica A	Annamaria T	Andrew C
Cathy L	Charlotte D	Lee T	Todd S
Marion B	Jonathan A	David O	Michael C
Lily V	Curt R	Michael G	Tyler G
Holly N	Matthew S	Patricia C	Erik B
Lisa A	Joan A	Barbara S	Justin Earl B
Dylan G	Dick C	Don R	Evan G
Aiden J	Karen R	Fred B	David P
Helen A	Pat J		
Matthew A	Alexis R		

### **SERVING TODAY**

Jay Huntington - Lector

Pauline Neumann - Worship Assistant

Donna Berndtson, Rick Borg, - Ushers/Greeters

Marie DeGraff - Altar Guild

Sarah Dzialo - Organist

Interfaith Coalition of Portland welcomes all to  
**The National Day of Prayer**

**Portland Food Bank - STORIES OF H♥PE**

**How our Food Bank is Responding to Needs**

Thursday, May 7 at 6:30 p.m.

Portland Senior Center

7 Waverly Avenue

**Please join us!**

**For Prayers | Music | Meeting Community Needs |**

**Refreshments**

**Together in Prayer. Together in Service**

**Great news!** Zion has joined a residential solar promotion program called Solarize Faith. Through Solarize Faith, both congregants and Zion can receive the following financial incentives:

\$1,000 rebate to congregants (or any household that lists Zion for the referral) for solar installs

\$500 rebate to congregants for solar battery storage

ALSO

\$1000 to Zion for every solar or battery storage project that is successfully installed

The Interreligious Eco-Justice Network (IREJN) is partnering with installer Earthlight Technologies to offer the incentives. Get started by visiting their website at [www.earthlighttech.com/solarize-faith](http://www.earthlighttech.com/solarize-faith). This incentive is available from May 1 to June 30, 2026. Kerry and Chris Darby are happy to answer questions during coffee hour, or feel free to reach out to [kerrydpdarby@yahoo.com](mailto:kerrydpdarby@yahoo.com) or 860-316-7921.



Thank you to **The Schneiders** for organizing and hosting coffee hour today.





**RaiseRight**

**RaiseRight Gift Cards**

Place your order today to get RaiseRight (formerly Scrip)

cards! You pay face value for the cards, but Zion receives a percentage of the amount of the card. It's a win-win! See Rick Borg for details.



Make sure to use a **Goodwill Good Neighbor Donation Card** whenever you donate to Goodwill. See Donna Berndtson for the donation cards and details.



The **Word in Season Daily Devotions for April, May and June** are available in the Narthex and the Red Box outside the door with the doorbell.

**Zion Lutheran Church presents:**

Lancaster Show Trip and the Dutch Country

5 days and 4 nights

The trip departs 183 William Street at 8:00 am on Monday, Oct 26. and returns on Friday, Oct 30.

The cost is \$765 per person, double occupancy.

Please call Barbara Shaw at 860-262-3531 for more information and reservations.



**Gifts to ELCA World Hunger** from congregations and individuals in the New England Synod during Lent through Pentecost will be matched up to \$50,000.

For more information, resources or how to give, visit the Synod Website:

<https://nelutherans.org/faithinaction/worldhunger>

**Save the Date:**

# Italian Night



**Zion Lutheran Church**  
Italian Night 2026

Sunday, May 31st  
Social Hour: 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.  
Dinner: 5:00 p.m.



Zion Lutheran Church is participating in the **Birdies For Charity** program once again this year. **Donations are being accepted now and will go through June 28.** I encourage everyone to visit their website which is **Travelers Championship** and then you can scroll down to Birdies For Charity. This year, the money that is donated to Zion will be going towards capital improvements, which are badly needed at the church. There are also hundreds of different charities listed on their website that you can always donate if it's something that's near and dear to your heart. A portion of the proceeds from the church will be going to charity. If you have any questions, please see Donna B after church. Thank you and God bless.



**Please Recycle Ink and Toner Cartridges Here.**

There is a container to leave your used ink and toner cartridges for us to recycle.

Council Members: President - Kathy Richards, Vice President - Paula Brown, Secretary - Barbara Helming, Financial Secretary - Rick Borg, Other Members - Beth Keser, Bob Redman Peter Willse, Christine Kelsey, Kate Schneider

**Today: May 3, 2026**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**9:00 a.m.** Worship/Communion

**10:15 a.m.** Sunday School

**10:30 a.m.** Adult Education

**11:30 a.m.** True Vine Church

**This Week:**

Monday: **6:00 p.m.** N/A

Tuesday: **9:30 a.m.** Happy Handz

**7:00 p.m.** Fife & Drum

Wednesday: **6:30 p.m.** Property/Finance

Thursday: **5:30 p.m.** Cub Scouts Pack Meeting

Friday: **7:00 p.m.** N/A

**Next Sunday: May , 2026**

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**9:00 a.m.** Worship/Communion

**10:30 a.m.** The Chosen

**11:30 a.m.** True Vine Church



Next weeks readings: Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20;  
1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

Attendance: Last week - 53; Last year - 44

**MISSION STATEMENT**

As members of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, we exist to honor and proclaim the life of Jesus Christ through our words, actions and deeds.

**VISION STATEMENT**

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church shall be a prominent magnet in the community to draw people to a new life in Jesus Christ.

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